

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A chuck actuator has a hollow housing having a chamber and having a front end and a rear end. A ring in the chamber forms with the front end thereof a front compartment and a piston in the chamber between the ring and the rear end forms an intermediate compartment with the ring and a rear compartment with the rear end. A stem on the piston projecting forward through the ring and through the intermediate and front compartments is adapted to engage and open a chuck and is formed with a region of enlarged diameter. The piston is shiftable between a rear position with the enlarged-diameter region offset rearward from the ring and with the stem forming with the ring an axially extending passage between the front and intermediate compartments and a front position with the enlarged-diameter portion fitting snugly in the ring and substantially closing the passage.